The Fortunes and Misfortunes of

MOLL FLANDERS,

Who was born in Newgate,

And during a Life of continued Variety for fixty Years, was 17 Times a Whore, 5 Times a Wife, once to her own Brother, 12 Years a Thief, 11 Times in Bridewell, 9 Times in New Prison, 11 Times in Wood-street Compter, 6 Times in the Poultry Compter, 14 Times in the Gate-house, 25 Times in Newgate, 13 Times whipt at the Cart's Arse, 4 Times burnt in the Hand, once condemned for Life, and 8 Years a Transport in Virginia. At last grew rich, lived honest and died a penitent.

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THE ſubject of the following hiſtory, is one of the moſt ſurpriſing accounts that ever was wrote of any of the female ſex. It is one Moll Flanders, whoſe unhappy parents having abandoned all honeſty, were committed to Newgate, in the reign of King James I. for breaking open the houſe of a goldſmith in Lombard-ſtreet. They were both tried and condemned at the Old Bailey for their lives; and Thomas Flanders, the huſband was hung at Tyburn; but his wife pleaded her belly, ſhe was reſpited till after the birth of Moll, when ſhe ſuffered the ſame fate as her huſband did at the ſame place.

This Moll Flanders was born in the year 1637, in Newgate, from whence ſhe was ſtole away by ſome Gypſies, with whom ſhe lived till ſhe was near twelve years of age, about which time ſhe made her eſcape from them, in order to ſeek her own fortune in the world. After her eſcape, as before-mentioned, ſhe came again to Newgate,

where ſhe married a highwayman, with whom ſhe lived ſix years, his appetite being then glutted, he turned her off. She then took up with one Mod, a highwayman, who was hanged at

Tyburn; but deſerted him four years before he ſuffered; and lived with the Golden Farmer, a footpad, with whom ſhe had not lived two years before he was committed to Newgate for a murder, and deſervedly hanged for the ſame at the end of Saliſbury-court in Fleet-ſtreet.

Then Moll became a hempen widow, for Hind and Mod were hanged alſo. She thought their misfortunes owing to her own inconſtancy, therefore reſolved to enter into the ſtate of matrimony, in which ſhe was more criminal; for firſt ſhe was married to own brother, committing the ſin of inceſt. She had not been married to him above a year, before he was ſhot dead on Hounſlow-heath, in attempting to rob a gentleman in his coach and ſix. Nevertheleſs, ſhe married in a day or two after to James Thompſon, a turnkey of the Marſhalſea priſon, with whom ſhe lived

three quarters of a year; when she ran away from him, taking with her all her cloaths. Then she

married William Dorman, a solicito, with him she lived a year, all which time she was not without a black eye; for being jealous, he beat her unmercifully. He sold her to a common hangman under a gibbet for a shilling; and they agreeing, were married. She afterwards married one John Catholic, who loved her so well as

her wit, that he uſed her in ſtratagems, to take the perſon he was to arreſt; however, after living four years with the bailiff he died. Thus was ſhe eight years a wife to ſeveral husbands, tho' ſhe lived eaſy with the laſt, yet by ſpending, he died in ſuch bad circumſtances, that ſhe was turned out of her houſe, and her goods ſeized.

Being reduced to great want, ſhe turned thief, robbing her lodgings, and going into ale-houſes,

and ſtealing ſeveral tankards, and having the luck to get off, ſhe commenced ſhoplifter! of her profic ency, the following circumſtance will ſatisfy the reader: one day Moll going into a ſempſtreſs's ſhop, ſaid ſhe wanted half a dozen ſhifts; ſeveral were ſhewed her that ſhe liked very well, but doubting the length, they went to the back part of the ſhop to try one on. Moll ſeemed to meaſure it at the bottom, by pulling of it down, and ſticking two or three pins in the bottom of the ſempſtreſs's petticoats and ſmock, ſo that if ſhe took it off ſhe muſt pull up her petticoats and ſhift. Moll takes a good booty that lay on the

counter and runs off. The ſempſtreſs followed, crying ſtop thief! and endeavoured to pull off the ſhift, expoſing her bare buttocks to hundreds, who diverted themſelves with her inſtead of looking after the thief, they followed her home, thinking none but a mad woman would appear in the ſtreets as ſhe did, Moll in the mean while got off. The ſempſtreſs, who had loſt above 30l. worth of lace, was jeered by her neighbours to her death with the cry of, ſtop thief! which af-

terwards coſt her many pounds to make people ſilent.

Moll being ſo ſucceſsful in her projects invented another ſcheme; and that was to dreſs herſelf like a perſon of quality, end frequent the gardens and public places of diverſion, where ſhe was dexterous at picking watches from their ſides

For about 25 years Moll followed this trade, inſomuch, that ſhe was more notorious than the German Princeſs and Moll Pines, the firſt of which was executed, and the other got off with being burnt in the face. At length Moll being apprehended attempting to rob the lodging of the

old Ducheſs of Lenox, ſhe was committed to Newgate, and condemned! but the Ducheſs requeſted the recorder to give a favourable report to his Majeſty, and ſhe came off with tranſportation.

Moll having gone thro' a variety of misfortunes in England, is at laſt got to America, where, inſtead of living by whoredom, marriage, &c. there ſhe is hoeing, weeding, and picking tobacco, lays

upon ſtraw, goes in a manner naked, is an eye witneſs of the cruelty of the Indians to her own ſex, has much work, hard lodging, and ſlender diet, repenting ſhe ſpent ſo uncomfortable a ſtate both to body and ſoul.

However, Moll was obliged to make the beſt of a bad market, and perform her ſervice for eight years, when out of her time, and weaned from coming over to England, continued in Virginia, and was entertained in the houſe of her maſter, and her maſter dying without iſſue, her miſtreſs ſoon made her directreſs of her affairs, which ſhe managed ſo well to the mind of her miſtreſs, and ſhe not long ſurviving her husband, left Moll

legacy, which ſhe improved before her death to the value of fourteen thouſand pounds, living an honeſt and pious life, juſt in her dealings, hoſpitable to her neighbours, charitable to her ſlaves, and eſpecially to her unfortunate country people. She releaſed ſeveral out of ſlavery, inſomuch that ſhe gained the love of the people in Virginia. At laſt ſhe was ſeized with an aſthma, and finding that her death drew nigh, ſhe made due preparation, and died a true penitent, aged threeſcore. She was buried in St. Mary's church, James Town, the chief town in Virginia, and her death was much lamented by all who knew her. On her tomb is the following epitaph:

The EPITAPH.

Newgate thy dwelling was, thy beauty made thee
A goddeſs ſeem, and that alone betray'd thee.
Twelve years a whore, a wife unto thy brother,
And ſuch a thief there ſcarce could be another.
Unweary'd traveller, whither doſt thou roam,
Lo! in this place remote to find a tomb?
Tranſported hence, to heaven 'tis hop'd thou'rt ſent,
Who wicked liv'd, but dy'd a penitent.